

Minutes of the Veneta City Council

March 26, 2007

Council

Present: Mayor T. J. Brooker, Darrell Carman, Thomas Cotter and Sharon Hobart-Hardin

Absent: Marion Esty

Others: Margaret Boutell, Community Services Director; Jerri Moore, Finance Director; Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder; and Linda Boothe

Mayor Brooker called the Veneta City Council meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Boothe, 25331 Jeans Rd., Veneta, OR,

Ms. Boothe spoke on behalf of herself and the Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce. She said she was happy to see so many in attendance at the Faces of Fern Ridge/Distinguished Persons Awards banquet held at Crow High School on Thursday, March 15, 2007. She said Veneta is a good town with a friendly atmosphere.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Darrell Carman seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Mayor Brooker, aye; Darrell Carman, aye; and Sharon Hobart-Hardin, aye. (Thomas Cotter had not yet arrived and Marion Esty was not present).

The consent agenda as approved included the minutes for March 12, 2007, Bills Payable for March 2007, the Civic Calendar for April 2007, and Liquor License Renewals for 2007.

3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FROM MAYOR/COUNCILORS

(1) Law Enforcement Activities Report, Sgt. Harrold LCSO

Sgt. Harrold presented a case report comparison to the Councilors. He said the case numbers drawn by deputies were lower from January 1, 2007 to March 15, 2007 for the same time period of 2006; although the 2007 figures did not include March 1 to 15, 2007. Sgt. Harrold spoke about a previous offender who is employed now and in our community but hopefully will not be committing any more crimes in the area. He said because our population is growing and because we added a half-time officer, there is an increase in the number of calls coming in and an increase in the response to calls. In response to a request from Councilors at the last meeting, Sgt. Harrold was able to retain another officer to sit at the intersection of 8th and Hunter and during a three hour time period, the officer wrote eight tickets. Sgt. Harrold said an explosive device, which consisted of a latex glove filled with acetylene and wrapped with newspaper, was found in Veneta on March 10, 2007. The device was dangerous but not destructive. He said a suspect was taken into custody and the Sheriff's Dept. asked the District Attorney not overlook the matter.

Thomas Cotter arrived at 7:10.

In response to a question from Sharon Hobart-Hardin, Sgt. Harrold said it is possible to determine if deputies are responding more frequently to specific areas in Veneta than others but

unfortunately he doesn't have the time to make those comparisons. Sgt. Harrold said a regular contract deputy recently had knee surgery. He said LCSO sent a replacement deputy to patrol for the same number of hours but the schedule has changed somewhat. Sgt. Harrold said unsavory people know when the deputies are patrolling. He said he wanted to switch the schedule so deputies are patrolling at different times. Sgt. Harrold said he is already looking into how the Country Fair patrolling will be funded. He said the topic came up at the Faces of Fern Ridge banquet. Mayor Brooker said the Council will discuss the funding issue at a future meeting.

b. COUNCIL/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Mayor Brooker said Sharon Hobart Hardin and Thomas Cotter participated in organizing the program for the Faces of Fern Ridge Awards banquet held last week

Mayor Brooker said he and Darrell Carman have been meeting with staff to discuss the compensation package and said the committee should be having its final meeting this week.

4. STAFF REPORTS

FINANCE DIRECTOR JERRI MOORE

(1) Second Quarter Financials

Jerri said progress continues on catching up the current year accounting. Jerri said the main reason revenues are higher than the first quarterly report is tax revenues coming in. She said the City received the bulk of the property tax revenue in the second quarter in the amount of \$813,823. Jerri said the City's tax collections as of December 31 have exceeded budget in some funds.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Jerri said tax revenues were budgeted at 95% of total projected tax revenue.

Jerri said some of the planned transfers have been recorded now. She said some resources are higher than budgeted at the end of the second quarter. She said most expenditures are at 50%. She said a few areas are higher than 50%, one in particular is "budgeted transfers out" in the General fund. She said the City is at 87% for contracted services in the Street fund. This is driven by costs from earlier in the year for the Hunter St. overlay and an adjustment will be needed this year, either by a transfer of appropriation authority or a supplemental budget. Jerri said operating supply costs and system maintenance in the municipal Water fund and the Sewer fund are higher than anticipated. Jerri said her report reflected the parking lot completion for Territorial Park which came within budget.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Jerri said Capital Projects/Territorial Park Fund covered the cost of the parking lot completion.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Jerri said the percentage of budget received means the percent received at this point in time. She said it's a comparison of how much the City has collected as of December 31, 2006, compared to what was budgeted.

In response to a question from Sharon Hobart Hardin, Jerri said the 199% in the Public Works Equipment fund revenue includes interest only and interest revenue is higher in every fund in the City than anticipated when the budget was drafted last year.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Jerri said the combination of higher cash on hand plus interest rates continuing to climb throughout the current fiscal year have produced the greater interest income.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Jerri said the nearly \$3,000 of revenue in the Public Works Equipment fund is all interest. Jerri said with the exception of transfers from other funds, interest is the only other source of income in that fund.

In response to a question from Mayor Brooker, Margaret said there have been some unanticipated maintenance costs at the Waste Water Plant. She said a blower, diffusers and a pump were replaced. She said it's general wear and tear maintenance on equipment.

(2) Status of Budget Committee Applications

Jerri said she received two eligible Budget Committee applications as of the March 26, 2007 application deadline. She said there are three definite openings and there is a possibility of a fourth. Jerri asked the Council to do some recruiting to fill these positions. Jerri informed the Councilors she received applications from Scott Sanders and Fred Miller. She suggested resetting the application deadline to the first Friday in April. Darrell Carman requested the applicant requirement criteria. Jerri asked the Councilors to direct questions from potential applicants to her.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTOR. MARGARET BOUTELL

(1) Update from Local Improvement District (LID) Subcommittee

Thomas Cotter and Darrell Carman are heading the subcommittee for the LID. Darrell Carman said they are making progress. He said two more meetings are scheduled for April and the subcommittee will present a report to the Council at the end of April.

(2) Request for Assistance - Earth Day/Volunteer Recruitment

Margaret told the Councilors Veneta is hosting its first annual Earth Day and barbeque on Saturday, April 21, 2007. Margaret said Tauyna Jones attended a SOLV training session and received a grant for a volunteer project. Gail Wilkie and Lee Taylor-Leowe have been instrumental in planning for the event. Saturday's clean up will consist of Territorial Sports Park, Ralph Johnson Park, the four corners area and the Territorial Sports Program playing fields. Margaret said SOLV, Kiwanis Club and County Transfer & Recycling are partnered in the event. Volunteers will receive a free fir tree sapling and a barbeque meal. Margaret said this event is the "kick off" for other volunteer programs throughout the City.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Margaret said the annual City wide clean up is scheduled for May 5, 2007. County Transfer & Recycling will also participate on that day. It is not known how many volunteers will participate.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said there will be an application process for the volunteers so that a data base can be created for future community volunteering.

The Park Board requested the Council approve payment for the cost of work gloves and nursery pots in the amount of \$146.60. Margaret said there is approximately \$2,000 in the Park Board fund.

MOTION: Darrell Carman made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$150.00. Sharon Hobart-Hardin seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 4-0 vote.

(3) Pool Discussion

Margaret said at Council's direction, staff met with Carl Sherwood of Robertson Sherwood Architects, to identify the needs for a replacement pool. Before the architects create preliminary design drawings, some feed back from the Council on the goals for the replacement pool is requested. Margaret said the National Park and Recreation Association standard suggests a population of 20,000 to 25,000 could support a year round facility.

All Councilors supported the suggestion that the replacement pool be built so it could be converted to an indoor facility at a later date.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Margaret said the usage figures are based on city population. She said if a Parks and Recreation District were created, the population numbers would increase.

Thomas Cotter said the notation of "lessor emphasis on therapeutic" should be removed. He felt therapeutic programs may be something to look into and possibly putting in a larger therapy pool with a warmer temperature that could be covered temporarily to be used year round. He suggested therapeutic grants may be available.

Darrell asked if the Council was setting its sights too low and that constructing a facility too soon may not be the best thing to do. He suggested involving the school district and possibly creating a swim team. He said replacing the existing pool with an indoor one should be considered.

Mayor Brooker said time would be needed to set up a Parks and Recreation District which would prolong the pool construction for two or more years.

Darrell Carman felt it would be worth going without a pool for two to three years to construct a pool that would last 70 years.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin said state-wide, Parks and Recreation Districts are not supported at the level they should be. She said a Parks and Recreation District possibly may never happen.

Thomas Cotter said City staff and Council, including the school district, tried previously to create a Parks and Recreation District and they couldn't get it off the ground.

Darrel Carman felt an indoor facility could possibly be the hook to bring people in, especially with Perkins Peninsula closing at Fern Ridge Reservoir.

Mayor Brooker said he would like the opportunity to explore the idea in greater depth but doesn't want to stop the energy to get a pool started and possibly add a cover later.

In response to a question from Darrell Carman, Margaret said a 25-yard pool is the smallest size allowed for high school competition swimming.

Mayor Brooker suggested Councilors decide on the following items: 1) to have staff continue on the goals Margaret provided; 2) to remove the language "lesser emphasis on competitive and therapeutic programs"; 3) possibly include a future conversion to an indoor facility; 4) what the new pool could accommodate (i.e., therapeutic, competitive swimming); and 5) the new pool has a usefulness for as long as possible.

Margaret said discussion of a bond measure and the Parks and Recreation District are proposed for a Council work session.

Darrell Carman suggested the cost wouldn't be much more if the pool were designed to be retrofitted to a year round facility and to insulate it at construction so it can be heated in the future.

(4) **Resolution 937 - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEE
IN LIEU OF PARKLAND DEDICATION**

At the last Council meeting of March 12, 2007, Councilors agreed the recent land appraisals were sufficient for establishing the fee in-lieu of parkland dedication. Councilors also directed the amount be updated annually and directed staff to provide the Council with a specific figure. Resolution 937 proposes to set the fee amount at \$77,700 as a value per acre.

MOTION: Sharon Hobart-Hardin made a motion to approve Resolution 937. Mayor Brooker seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 4-0 vote.

In response to questions from Darrell Carman and Thomas Cotter, Margaret said a formula in the Land Development Ordinance is used to calculate the percentage of the land/dollar value. Margaret said it is up to the City if they want to accept the land dedication or the fee in-lieu of Parkland Dedication.

(5) **Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Expansion Update**

Margaret provided an update on the .36 acres on Perkins Rd. expansion of the UGB for the Southwest Area Plan. She said once the UGB is expanded, the City will annex the expanded portion of Perkins Rd. The UGB expansion request was approved by the Lane County Planning Commission on March 20. She said in May, 2007 the expansion request will go to the Lane County Commissioners, once approved, the annexation process will begin in June.

(6) **Work Plan and Proposed Schedule of Work Sessions**

Margaret provided Councilors with a work session schedule for the two-year work plan for 2007-08.

Sharon Hobart-Hardin felt a work session was not necessary to establish Fern Ridge Reservoir as a bird watching destination in terms of economic development. She said she would rather focus on maintaining the Wings and Wine event in May to make it more of a regional and national event.

Mayor Brooker and Darrell Carman agreed that the east side of Veneta lot sizes, along with the Waste Water Plan should be a topic of discussion at a work session or for a subcommittee.

The Councilors agreed some topics could be combined and discussed at the same work session. Discussions on a long and short range water development plan and regional water discussions could be combined with the Water Master Plan. Sharon Hobart-Hardin suggested combining evaluating additional city sponsored recreational programs, and reviewing conceptual ideas for the new pool.

In response to a request by Margaret to name additional stakeholders to invite to the public meeting on the Tree Ordinance update, Councilors suggested the Long Tom Watershed Council as well as the Forestry Dept. and people who filled out the tree ordinance surveys.

Thomas Cotter felt the cost of a new pool was significant enough to hold a public meeting. He suggested creating a sub-committee for the new pool construction. He said the three items regarding the pool could be combined into one meeting in April.

Margaret reminded everyone that the first three items on the draft work session schedule need to be discussed prior to May 3, 2007 because that is the first budget meeting for the 2007-08 fiscal year. She suggested one work session a month throughout the year.

It was suggested the Planning Commission be involved in some of the work sessions.

After much discussion it was decided the next work session would be April 18, 2007 from 4:30 to 6:30. Staff and Councilors will determine if the third Wednesday of each month would accommodate everyone. The next meeting will be scheduled at that time.

Margaret asked Councilors to look over the schedule to determine if they wanted to move or combine topics for discussion. Darrell Carman said the conceptual design for the pool should also include the feasibility study for a Parks and Recreation District.

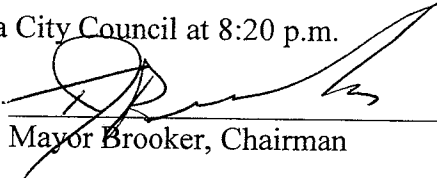
Thomas Cotter suggested looking in past records when Earl Ellson and Tony Garcia tried to create a Parks and Recreation District.

5. **OTHER**

None


6. **ADJOURN**

Mayor Brooker adjourned the Veneta City Council at 8:20 p.m.



Mayor Brooker, Chairman

ATTEST:



Darci Henneman, Assistant City Recorder
(prepared by dhenneman)